

{1:38} Then we that stood in a corner of the garden, seeing this wickedness, ran unto them.

{1:39} And when we saw them together, the man we could not hold: for he was stronger than we, and opened the door, and leaped out.

{1:40} But having taken this woman, we asked who the young man was, but she would not tell us: these things do we testify.

{1:41} Then the assembly believed them as those that were the elders and judges of the people: so they condemned her to death.

{1:42} Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, O everlasting God, that knowest the secrets, and knowest all things before they be:

{1:43} Thou knowest that they have borne false witness against me, and, behold, I must die; whereas I never did such things as these men have maliciously invented against me.

{1:44} And the Lord heard her voice.

{1:45} Therefore when she was led to be put to death, the Lord raised up the holy spirit of a young youth whose name was Daniel:

{1:46} Who cried with a loud voice, I am clear from the blood of this woman.

{1:47} Then all the people turned them toward him, and said, What mean these words that thou hast spoken?

{1:48} So he standing in the midst of them said, Are ye such fools, ye sons of Israel, that without examination or knowledge of the truth ye have condemned a daughter of Israel?

{1:49} Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against her.

{1:50} Wherefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto him, Come, sit down among us, and shew it us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder.

{1:51} Then said Daniel unto them, Put these two aside one far from another, and I will examine them.

{1:52} So when they were put asunder one from another, he called one of them, and said unto him, O thou that art waxen old in wickedness, now thy sins which thou hast committed aforetime are come to light.

{1:53} For thou hast pronounced false judgment and hast condemned the innocent and hast let the guilty go free; albeit the Lord saith, The innocent and righteous shalt thou not slay.

{1:54} Now then, if thou hast seen her, tell me, Under what tree sawest thou them companying together? Who answered, Under a mastick tree.

{1:55} And Daniel said, Very well; thou hast lied against thine own head; for even now the angel of God hath received the sentence of God to cut thee in two.

{1:56} So he put him aside, and commanded to bring the other, and said unto him, O thou seed of Chanaan, and not of Juda, beauty hath deceived thee, and lust hath perverted thine heart.

{1:57} Thus have ye dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for fear companied with you: but the daughter of Juda would not abide your wickedness.

{1:58} Now therefore tell me, Under what tree didst thou take them companying together? Who answered, Under an holm tree.

{1:59} Then said Daniel unto him, Well; thou hast also lied against thine own head: for the angel of God waiteth with the sword to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you.

{1:60} With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God, who saveth them that trust in him.

{1:61} And they arose against the two elders, for Daniel had convicted them of false witness by their own mouth:

{1:62} And according to the law of Moses they did unto them in such sort as they maliciously intended to do to their neighbour: and they put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved the same day.

{1:63} Therefore Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joacim her husband, and all the kindred, because there was no dishonesty found in her.

{1:64} From that day forth was Daniel had in great reputation in the

The Book of Bel and the Dragon [in Daniel]

The History of the Destruction of Bel and the Dragon,
Cut off from the end of Daniel.

{1:1} And king Astyages was gathered to his fathers, and Cyrus of Persia received his kingdom.

{1:2} And Daniel conversed with the king, and was honoured above all his friends.

{1:3} Now the Babylons had an idol, called Bel, and there were spent upon him every day twelve great measures of fine flour, and forty sheep, and six vessels of wine.

{1:4} And the king worshipped it and went daily to adore it: but Daniel worshipped his own God. And the king said unto him, Why dost not thou worship Bel?

{1:5} Who answered and said, Because I may not worship idols made with hands, but the living God, who hath created the heaven and the earth, and hath sovereignty over all flesh.

{1:6} Then said the king unto him, Thinkest thou not that Bel is a living God? seest thou not how much he eateth and drinketh every day?

{1:7} Then Daniel smiled, and said, O king, be not deceived: for this is but clay within, and brass without, and did never eat or drink any thing.

{1:8} So the king was wroth, and called for his priests, and said unto them, If ye tell me not who this is that devoureth these expences, ye shall die.

{1:9} But if ye can certify me that Bel devoureth them, then Daniel shall die: for he hath spoken blasphemy against Bel. And Daniel said unto the king, Let it be according to thy word.

{1:10} Now the priests of Bel were threescore and ten, beside their wives and children. And the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

{1:11} So Bel's priests said, Lo, we go out: but thou, O king, set on the meat, and make ready the wine, and shut the door fast and seal it with thine own signet;

{1:12} And to morrow when thou comest in, if thou findest not that Bel hath eaten up all, we will suffer death: or else Daniel, that speaketh falsely against us.

{1:13} And they little regarded it: for under the table they had made a privy entrance, whereby they entered in continually, and consumed those things.

{1:14} So when they were gone forth, the king set meats before Bel. Now Daniel had commanded his servants to bring ashes, and those they strewed throughout all the temple in the presence of the king alone: then went they out, and shut the door, and sealed it with the king's signet, and so departed.

{1:15} Now in the night came the priests with their wives and children, as they were wont to do, and did eat and drinck up all.

{1:16} In the morning betime the king arose, and Daniel with him.

{1:17} And the king said, Daniel, are the seals whole? And he said, Yea, O king, they be whole.

{1:18} And as soon as he had opened the dour, the king looked upon the table, and cried with a loud voice, Great art thou, O Bel, and with thee is no deceit at all.

{1:19} Then laughed Daniel, and held the king that he should not go in, and said, Behold now the pavement, and mark well whose footsteps are these.

{1:20} And the king said, I see the footsteps of men, women, and children. And then the king was angry,

{1:21} And took the priests with their wives and children, who shewed him the privy doors, where they came in, and consumed such things as were upon the table.

{1:22} Therefore the king slew them, and delivered Bel into Daniel's power, who destroyed him and his temple.

{1:23} And in that same place there was a great dragon, which they of Babylon worshipped.

{1:24} And the king said unto Daniel, Wilt thou also say that this is of brass? lo, he liveth, he eateth and drinketh; thou canst not say that he is no living god: therefore worship him.

{1:25} Then said Daniel unto the king, I will worship the Lord my God: for he is the living God.

{1:26} But give me leave, O king, and I shall slay this dragon without sword or staff. The king said, I give thee leave.

{1:27} Then Daniel took pitch, and fat, and hair, and did seethe them together, and made lumps thereof: this he put in the dragon's mouth, and so the dragon burst in sunder: and Daniel said, Lo, these are the gods ye worship.

{1:28} When they of Babylon heard that, they took great indignation, and conspired against the king, saying, The king is become a Jew, and he hath destroyed Bel, he hath slain the dragon, and put the priests to death.

{1:29} So they came to the king, and said, Deliver us Daniel, or else we will destroy thee and thine house.

{1:30} Now when the king saw that they pressed him sore, being constrained, he delivered Daniel unto them:

{1:31} Who cast him into the lions' den: where he was six days.

{1:32} And in the den there were seven lions, and they had given them every day two carcases, and two sheep: which then were not given to them, to the intent they might devour Daniel.

{1:33} Now there was in Jewry a prophet, called Habbacuc, who had made pottage, and had broken bread in a bowl, and was going into the field, for to bring it to the reapers.

{1:34} But the angel of the Lord said unto Habbacuc, Go,

carry the dinner that thou hast into Babylon unto Daniel,
who is in the lions' den.

{1:35} And Habbacuc said, Lord, I never saw Babylon;
neither do I know where the den is.

{1:36} Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown,
and bare him by the hair of his head, and through the
vehemency of his spirit set him in Babylon over the den.

{1:37} And Habbacuc cried, saying, O Daniel, Daniel,
take the dinner which God hath sent thee.

{1:38} And Daniel said, Thou hast remembered me, O
God: neither hast thou forsaken them that seek thee and love
thee.

{1:39} So Daniel arose, and did eat: and the angel of the
Lord set Habbacuc in his own place again immediately.

{1:40} Upon the seventh day the king went to bewail
Daniel: and when he came to the den, he looked in, and
behold, Daniel was sitting.

{1:41} Then cried the king with a loud voice, saying,
Great art Lord God of Daniel, and there is none other beside
thee.

{1:42} And he drew him out, and cast those that were the
cause of his destruction into the den: and they were
devoured in a moment before

The First Book of the Maccabees

{1:1} And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece,

{1:2} And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth,

{1:3} And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up.

{1:4} And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him.

{1:5} And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.

{1:6} Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.

{1:7} So Alexander reigned twelves years, and then died.

{1:8} And his servants bare rule every one in his place.

{1:9} And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.

{1:10} And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

{1:11} In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us: for since we departed from them we have had much sorrow.

{1:12} So this device pleased them well.

{1:13} Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them licence to do after the ordinances of the heathen:

{1:14} Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem according to the customs of the heathen:

{1:15} And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

{1:16} Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms.

{1:17} Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy,

{1:18} And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt: but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death.

{1:19} Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt and he took the spoils thereof.

{1:20} And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude,

{1:21} And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,

{1:22} And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.

{1:23} He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found.

{1:24} And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.

{1:25} Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

{1:26} So that the princes and elders mourned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed.

{1:27} Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber was in heaviness,

{1:28} The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.

{1:29} And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude,

{1:30} And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.

{1:31} And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side.

{1:32} But the women and children took they captive, and possessed the cattle.

{1:33} Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them.

{1:34} And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and fortified themselves therein.

{1:35} They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare:

{1:36} For it was a place to lie in wait against the sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel.

{1:37} Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the sanctuary, and defiled it:

{1:38} Insomuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them: whereupon the city was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her; and her own children left her.

{1:39} Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into reproach her honour into contempt.

{1:40} As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

{1:41} Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

{1:42} And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king.

{1:43} Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.

{1:44} For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land,

{1:45} And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:

{1:46} And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:

{1:47} Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:

{1:48} That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:

{1:49} To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.

{1:50} And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.

{1:51} In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

{1:52} Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit every one that forsook the law; and so they committed evils in the land;

{1:53} And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

{1:54} Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;

{1:55} And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

{1:56} And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

{1:57} And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

{1:58} Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

{1:59} Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

{1:60} At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised.

{1:61} And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.

{1:62} Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing.

{1:63} Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died.

{1:64} And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

{2:1} In those days arose Mattathias the son of John, the son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, from Jerusalem, and dwelt in Modin.

{2:2} And he had five sons, Joannan, called Caddis:

{2:3} Simon; called Thassi:

{2:4} Judas, who was called Maccabeus:

{2:5} Eleazar, called Avaran: and Jonathan, whose surname was Apphus.

{2:6} And when he saw the blasphemies that were committed in Juda and Jerusalem,

{2:7} He said, Woe is me! wherefore was I born to see this misery of my people, and of the holy city, and to dwell there, when it was delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the sanctuary into the hand of strangers?

{2:8} Her temple is become as a man without glory.

{2:9} Her glorious vessels are carried away into captivity, her infants are slain in the streets, her young men with the sword of the enemy.

{2:10} What nation hath not had a part in her kingdom and gotten of her spoils?

{2:11} All her ornaments are taken away; of a free woman she is become a bondslave.

{2:12} And, behold, our sanctuary, even our beauty and our glory, is laid waste, and the Gentiles have profaned it.

{2:13} To what end therefore shall we live any longer?

{2:14} Then Mattathias and his sons rent their clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourned very sore.

{2:15} In the mean while the king's officers, such as compelled the people to revolt, came into the city Modin, to make them sacrifice.

{2:16} And when many of Israel came unto them, Mattathias also and his sons came together.

{2:17} Then answered the king's officers, and said to Mattathias on this wise, Thou art a ruler, and an honourable and great man in this city, and strengthened with sons and brethren:

{2:18} Now therefore come thou first, and fulfil the king's commandment, like as all the heathen have done, yea, and the men of Juda also, and such as remain at Jerusalem: so shalt thou and thy house be in the number of the king's friends, and thou and thy children shall be honoured with silver and gold, and many rewards.

{2:19} Then Mattathias answered and spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments:

{2:20} Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers.

{2:21} God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances.

{2:22} We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand, or the left.

{2:23} Now when he had left speaking these words, there came one of the Jews in the sight of all to sacrifice on the altar which was at Modin, according to the king's commandment.

{2:24} Which thing when Mattathias saw, he was inflamed with zeal, and his reins trembled, neither could he forbear to shew his anger according to judgment: wherefore he ran, and slew him upon the altar.

{2:25} Also the king's commissioner, who compelled men to sacrifice, he killed at that time, and the altar he pulled down.

{2:26} Thus dealt he zealously for the law of God like as Phinees did unto Zambri the son of Salom.

{2:27} And Mattathias cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever is zealous of the law, and maintaineth the covenant, let him follow me.

{2:28} So he and his sons fled into the mountains, and left all that ever they had in the city.

{2:29} Then many that sought after justice and judgment went down into the wilderness, to dwell there:

{2:30} Both they, and their children, and their wives; and their cattle; because afflictions increased sore upon them.

{2:31} Now when it was told the king's servants, and the host that was at Jerusalem, in the city of David, that certain

men, who had broken the king's commandment, were gone down into the secret places in the wilderness,

{2:32} They pursued after them a great number, and having overtaken them, they camped against them, and made war against them on the sabbath day.

{2:33} And they said unto them, Let that which ye have done hitherto suffice; come forth, and do according to the commandment of the king, and ye shall live.

{2:34} But they said, We will not come forth, neither will we do the king's commandment, to profane the sabbath day.

{2:35} So then they gave them the battle with all speed.

{2:36} Howbeit they answered them not, neither cast they a stone at them, nor stopped the places where they lay hid;

{2:37} But said, Let us die all in our innocency: heaven and earth will testify for us, that ye put us to death wrongfully.

{2:38} So they rose up against them in battle on the sabbath, and they slew them, with their wives and children and their cattle, to the number of a thousand people.

{2:39} Now when Mattathias and his friends understood hereof, they mourned for them right sore.

{2:40} And one of them said to another, If we all do as our brethren have done, and fight not for our lives and laws against the heathen, they will now quickly root us out of the earth.

{2:41} At that time therefore they decreed, saying, Whosoever shall come to make battle with us on the sabbath day, we will fight against him; neither will we die all, as our brethren that were murdered in the secret places.

{2:42} Then came there unto him a company of Assideans who were mighty men of Israel, even all such as were voluntarily devoted unto the law.

{2:43} Also all they that fled for persecution joined themselves unto them, and were a stay unto them.

{2:44} So they joined their forces, and smote sinful men in their anger, and wicked men in their wrath: but the rest fled to the heathen for succour.

{2:45} Then Mattathias and his friends went round about, and pulled down the altars:

{2:46} And what children soever they found within the coast of Israel uncircumcised, those they circumcised valiantly.

{2:47} They pursued also after the proud men, and the work prospered in their hand.

{2:48} So they recovered the law out of the hand of the Gentiles, and out of the hand of kings, neither suffered they the sinner to triumph.

{2:49} Now when the time drew near that Mattathias should die, he said unto his sons, Now hath pride and rebuke gotten strength, and the time of destruction, and the wrath of indignation: